

FIRE INVESTIGATOR
(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This class encompasses positions at the entrance level in the fire investigation division, the major duties of which include investigating the causes and origins of suspicious fires, collecting evidence of possible arson at the fire scene, and performing any follow up duties required to locate persons suspected of setting fires or to prepare arson cases for prosecution. Investigators may also be required on occasion to assist in the work of the fire prevention division, performing fire inspections as assigned by the chief fire investigator. This work is non-supervisory in nature and fire investigators report to and have work reviewed by the Chief Fire Investigator.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Investigates the causes, origins, and circumstances of all fires occurring within the jurisdiction, especially those of unknown or suspicious origin; observes the fire scene and notes the presence of unusual or suspicious elements; talks with fire fighting personnel at the scene concerning details of fire.

Secures the fire scene to prevent removal or damage of evidence of possible arson; observes the manner of persons at the fire scene; obtains statements from possible witnesses; performs all duties at the fire scene and afterwards to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

Searches for, identifies, collects, and labels any evidence of possible arson at the fire scene, including devices used to set, start, or further the progress of a fire; protects the chain of custody of evidence; turns evidence over to laboratory or other experts for analysis.

Estimates damage or loss caused by fire for report purposes.

Attempts to identify and locate suspects in cases of suspected arson; compiles evidence which may be used for the prosecution of cases of arson by researching documents to provide background information; testifies in court when required.

Acts as division representative to the news media, releasing information and answering questions concerning the work of the division; answers telephone inquiries about the operation of the fire investigation division or any related areas.

Performs any related duties assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements must be met before admission to examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States, and being physically fit to perform effectively the duties of the position.

Must have a high school diploma or a valid certificate of equivalency issued by a state department of education.

Must have at least four (4) years of experience in fire service, at least one (1) year of which must have been in performing fire inspections or fire investigations, with the other three years in fire suppression, fire inspection, fire investigation, or some related area of operations which would afford a background in fire codes, inspection, or investigation procedures.

During the working test period, must acquire certification by the State Fire Marshal's Office as a fire investigator.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

Prior to beginning work in this class, must obtain a valid Louisiana driver's license.